

SAINT CATHERINE OF SIENA

this doctrine in addressing the democratic rulers of the Italia republics. "You see, dearest brothers and lords," she write to the Anziani and Consuls and Gonfalonieri of Bologna, " *tht* self-love is what lays waste the city of the soul, and ravages an overturns earthly cities. I would have you know that nothin has wrought this division in the world save self-love, from whic has risen and rises all injustice."¹ Through self-love, she tel the Signoria of Florence, the virtue of justice has died out i monarchies and republics alike : " The legitimate sovereigns ha-v become tyrants. The subjects of the Commune do not feed | its breast with justice nor fraternal charity ; but each one, wit falseness and lies, looks to his own private advantage, and not t the general weal. Each one is seeking the lordship for himsel and not the good state and administration of the city."² Similarly it is to self-love alone that Catherine ascribed the war betwee the Tuscan communes and the Holy See, no less than tt Great Schism itself; self-love had transformed Gregory's legat< to ravening wolves, and Urban's cardinals to incarnate demons. Man, therefore, must draw out the two-edged sword of lo\ and hate, and slay this worm of sensuality with the hand of Fr< Will. He must utterly cast off servile fear. " Servile fear tak< away all power from the soul. I think not that man has ar cause to fear, for God has made him strong against every adve sary."⁸ "No operation of the soul that fears with servile fe, is perfect. In whatever state she be, in small things and in gre* she falls short, and does not bring to perfection what she h begun. O how perilous is this fear I It cuts off the arms • holy desire ; it blinds man, for it does not let him know or s< the truth. This fear proceeds from the blindness of self-lov« for, as soon as the rational creature loves itself with sensitive sel love, it straightway fears. And this is the cause for which fears ; it has set its love and hope upon a weak thing, that h no firmness in itself, nor any stability, but passes like tl wind."⁴

¹ Letter 268 (200). ² Letter 337 (199).
Letter I.

⁸ Appendix,

* Letter 242 (37), to the Bishop of Florence, Angelo Ricasoli, when he 1